

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) An imaging system for interaction with one or more subject carried terminal devices, the one or more terminal devices including a display capable of displaying images and a communication device to enable communication therewith, the imaging system comprising:

at least one imaging means for photographing a subject carrying a terminal device and for obtaining image data representing an image of the subject;

an imaging communication means included with each associated imaging means for providing wireless data communication with the subject carried terminal devices; and

a control means for controlling the operation of the imaging means so that the imaging means is driven to obtain image data when the terminal device carried by the subject and the imaging communication means become able to communicate with each other to determine the subject is within the image data to be obtained by the imaging means; and

wherein the imaging communication means and the associated imaging means are arranged so that a data communication direction of the imaging communication means and an imaging direction of the imaging means are substantially identical; and

wherein the imaging communication means and the associated imaging means are arranged so that the data communication range of the imaging communication means is substantially within an imaging angle of view of the associated imaging means.

2. (Previously presented) The imaging device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control means is a means for assigning terminal information that specifies the terminal device carried by the subject to the image data.

3. (Currently amended) The imaging device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control means is a means for further controlling drive of the imaging communication ~~device-means~~ so

that the imaging communication device-means transmits the image data obtained by the imaging means to the terminal device.

4. (Previously Presented) The imaging device as defined in Claim 3, wherein the control means is a means for generating small capacity image data of which data volume is less than the image data and transmitting the small capacity image data to the terminal device instead of the image data.

5. Canceled.

6. Canceled.

7. (Previously Presented) The imaging device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control means is a means for controlling the drive of the imaging means so that photography is prohibited after a predetermined number of images have been photographed continuously.

8. (Previously Presented) The imaging device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control means is a means for controlling the drive of the imaging means so that imaging is prohibited for a predetermined time after photography.

9. (Previously Presented) The imaging device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control means is a means for controlling the drive of the imaging means so that the imaging means performs photography only when the terminal device gives an instruction to perform photography.

10. Canceled.

11. Canceled.

12. (Previously presented) An imaging system comprising:

a terminal device carried by the subject and operatively connected to a controller, wherein the terminal device includes an integral terminal communicator to communicate a unique identification code to the controller when the terminal device is within the operative range of one or more cameras and also includes a display to display the images obtained by the one or more cameras;

the controller to receive the unique identification code from the terminal device, to drive the one or more cameras to record one or more images of the subject, and to communicate the images to the terminal device;

one or more cameras for obtaining images of the subject operatively connected to the controller;

wherein images of the subject which are obtained by the one or more cameras are transmitted to for display on the terminal device carried by the subject; and

wherein said controller drives one or more of said cameras only when said terminal device is within the field of view of one or more of said cameras.

13. (Previously Presented) The imaging system as defined in Claim 12, comprising:

a plurality of the imaging devices having imaging ranges which overlap, wherein the control means in each of the imaging devices is means for controlling the drive of the imaging device communication means and the imaging means, so that when all the plurality of the imaging devices have become able to communicate data with the terminal device, the imaging means in the plurality of the imaging devices take respective photographs.

14. (Previously Presented) The imaging system as defined in Claim 12, further comprising:

an image server for storing the images obtained by the one or more cameras.

15. (Previously Presented) The imaging system as defined in Claim 12, further comprising:

a printer for printing out the image data obtained by the imaging device.

16. (Previously Presented) The imaging system as defined in Claim 15, wherein the printer only prints out the image data for which an instruction to print has been issued.

17. (Previously Presented) The imaging system as defined in Claim 16, wherein the instruction to print can be issued at the terminal device.

18. (Previously presented) A photographic generation and distribution method, the method being performed with one or more imaging devices each including an imaging communication device to perform communication with a terminal device carried by one or more subjects, the one or more imaging devices being provided at desired locations and each terminal device including a communicator, a unique identification code, and a display; the terminal device transmitting the unique identification code; the method comprising:

- a) detecting the terminal device coming within a communication area of the imaging communication device included with each imaging device, the communication area being limited to substantially correspond to an imaging area of the imaging device in which an image can be successfully captured;
- b) determining the unique identification code of the terminal device detected in said step a);
- c) obtaining an image of the subject user by the imaging device in response to detecting the terminal device in said step a);
- d) associating the image of the subject user with the unique identification code of the terminal device determined in said step b);
- e) transmitting the obtained image of the subject user to the terminal device; and
said terminal device being capable of displaying the obtained image of the subject user on the terminal device display.

19. (Currently amended) The imaging system of claim 1 wherein a said imaging means has an angle of view and said imaging communication ~~device-means~~ has a directional angle of communication which produces a sensing area substantially within the angle of view of the said imaging means.

20. (Previously Presented) The imaging system of claim 12 wherein a said one of the one or more cameras has an angle of view and where the controller includes a imaging communication device associated with said one of the one or more cameras and having a directional angle of communication producing a sensing area substantially within the angle of view of said one of the one or more cameras.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein imaging area of the imaging device corresponds to an angle of view of the imaging device.

22. (Previously presented) The imaging system of claim 1, wherein the imaging communication means and the associated imaging means are arranged to be partially shielded by an outer case of the imaging means so that the data communication range of the imaging communication means is substantially limited to be within an imaging angle of view of the associated imaging means.

23. (Previously presented) The imaging system of claim 12, wherein the terminal device further includes an informing unit to indicate that the communicator is able to communicate with the one or more cameras.

24. (Previously presented) The imaging system of claim 18, wherein the communication area is limited to substantially correspond to an angle of view of the imaging device by a shielding body of the imaging device.

25. (Previously presented) An imaging system comprising:

a terminal device carried by the subject and operatively connected to a controller, wherein the terminal device includes an integral terminal communicator to communicate a unique identification code to the controller when the terminal device is within the operative range of one or more cameras and also includes a display to display the images obtained by the one or more cameras;

the controller to receive the unique identification code from the terminal device, to drive the one or more cameras to record one or more image of the subject, and to communicate the images to the terminal device;

one or more cameras for obtaining images of the subject operatively connected to the controller;

wherein images of the subject which are obtained by the one or more cameras are transmitted to for display on the terminal device carried by the subject; and

wherein said controller drives one or more of said cameras substantially only when said terminal device is within the field of view of one or more of said cameras.